

REMARKS

The present Amendment is in response to the Office Action having a mailing date of May 7, 2003. Claims 1-11 are pending in the present Application. Applicant has amended claims 1 and 7. Applicant has also added claims 12-15. Consequently, claims 1-15 remain pending in the present Application.

Applicant has amended claims 1 and 7 to recite that the second portion of the gap, in proximity to the rear of the pedestal, has a top and a bottom and that the top is substantially parallel to the bottom. Support for this amendment can be found in Figures 4A, 4B, 5A, 5B, 6A, 6B, 7A, 7B, 8A, and 8B. Applicant has also added claims 12-15. Support for new claims 12-15 can be found in Figures 4A, 4B, 5A, 5B, 6A, 6B, 7A, 7B, 8A, and 8B. Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter is added. Applicant has also amended claims 1 and 7 to correct minor errors. Applicant respectfully submits that this amendment does not narrow the scope of the

In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5 and 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,430,806 (Chen). The Examiner also rejected claims 6 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious in light of Chen.

In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-5 and 7-10 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 as being anticipated by Chen. In so doing, the Examiner cited item 74, Fig. 3 of Chen as teaching a notch.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection. Claim 1 recites a pedestal defined zero throat (PDZT) head including first and second poles separated by a gap. The PDZT includes a first pole having a pedestal and a second pole. The pedestal and the second pole are separated by a wide gap. The gap recited in claim 1 includes a first portion and a second portion.

The first portion of the gap is in proximity to the front of the pedestal, while the second portion of the gap is in proximity to the back of the pedestal. The first portion of the gap is thinner than the second portion of the gap. Claim 1 also recites that the second portion of the gap has a top and a bottom. The top of the second portion of the gap is substantially parallel to the bottom of the second portion of the gap. Claim 7 recites an analogous method for providing the head.

Because the second portion of the gap is thicker than the first portion, the back of the pedestal is separated from the second pole by a greater distance. Specification, page 7, lines 9-12. Consequently, any magnetic field in proximity to the rear of the pedestal is decreased. Specification, page 8, lines 5-7. Consequently, the notch of the pedestal is less likely to be saturated and, therefore, less likely to write to adjacent tracks. Specification, page 8, lines 7-10.

In contrast, the Chen describes a write head which apparently does not include a notch in the pedestal and which does not include the recited gap. More particularly, the second portion of the gap at the rear of the pedestal of Chen does not have a substantially parallel top and bottom. Instead, the pedestal of Chen has a sloped rear edge. In particular, Chen describes a “pedestal 74 [that] is formed on the first pole 66 at the pole tip region. . . The pedestal has a smoothly tapered edge 76. The smoothly tapered edge 76 facilitates the smooth flow of magnetic flux through the pole tip region of the first pole 66.” The gap, or the insulating region is between the pedestal 74 and the second pole 68. Thus, the shape of the gap changes upon the sloping edge 76 of the pedestal.

Although Chen functions well for its intended purpose, Applicant can find no mention of a notch in the pedestal. The item cited by the Examiner, pedestal 74, is a pedestal, but Applicant can find no indication in Chen that the pedestal includes a notch. This is in contrast to the notch recited in claims 1 and 7 and depicted in Figures 4A, 4B, 5A, 5B, 6A, 6B, 7A, 7B, 8A, 7B.

Moreover, the rear of the pedestal 74 is described as a sloping edge. Thus, even if the gap between the second pole 68 and the pedestal 74 of Chen can be considered to have two regions, one would be above the flat portion of the pedestal 74, while the other would be above the edge 76. Although Chen functions well for its intended purpose, Chen is devoid of mention of the gap above the edge 76 having a top and a bottom that are substantially parallel. Instead, the top and bottom of the gap follow the contour of the pedestal 74 and the second pole 68. Thus, the bottom of the gap slopes down, while the top slopes up. Consequently, Chen fails to teach or suggest the recited top and bottom of the second portion of the gap. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 1 and 7 are allowable over the cited references.

Claims 2-5 and 8-10 depend upon independent claims 1 and 7, respectively. Consequently, the arguments herein apply with full force to claims 2-5, 8-10. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 2-5 and 8-10 are allowable over the cited references.

In the above-identified Office Action, the Examiner also rejected claims 6 and 11 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being obvious in light of Chen.

Applicant respectfully traverses the Examiner's rejection. Claims 6 and 11 depend upon independent claims 1 and 7, respectively. Consequently, the arguments herein apply with full force to claims 6 and 11. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 6 and 11 are allowable over the cited references.

Furthermore, Applicant notes that Chen is assigned to Read-Rite Corporation. The present Application is also assigned to Read-Rite Corporation. Thus, Applicant respectfully submits that the use of Chen for a rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 103 is inappropriate. Consequently, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 6 and 11 are separately allowable over the cited references.

New claims 12-13 and 14-15 depend upon claims 1 and 7, respectively. Consequently, the arguments herein apply with full force to claims 12-15. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 12-15 are allowable over the cited references.

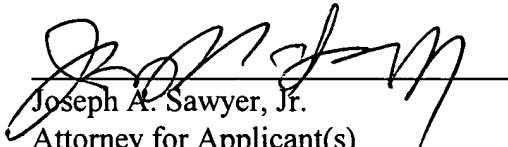
Furthermore, claims 12 and 14 recite that the first top of the first portion of the gap is substantially parallel to the top of the second portion of the gap. Similarly, claims 13 and 15 recite that the first bottom of the first portion of the gap is substantially parallel to the bottom of the second portion of the gap. Although Chen functions well for its intended purpose, Applicant notes that the gap of Chen changes shape at the sloping edge 76 of the pedestal 74. In particular, the top and bottom of the gap along the sloping edge 76 are not parallel to the top and bottom, respectively, of the gap near the front of the pedestal 74 (in proximity to the air-bearing surface). Consequently, Chen fails to teach or suggest a write head in which the first top of the first portion of the gap is substantially parallel to the top of the second portion of the gap or in which the first bottom of the first portion of the gap is substantially parallel to the bottom of the second portion of the gap. Chen thus fails to teach or suggest the write heads or methods recited in claims 12-13 and 14-15, respectively. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully submits that claims 12-15 are separately allowable over the cited references.

Applicant's attorney believes that this application is in condition for allowance. Should any unresolved issues remain, Examiner is invited to call Applicant's attorney at the telephone number indicated below.

Respectfully submitted,

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